

House File 488 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 488
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 156)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the programs of the Iowa commission on
2 volunteer service by establishing an Iowa reading corps and
3 specifying uses of funds.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 15H.5, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Funding for the Iowa summer youth corps program, and the
4 Iowa green corps program established pursuant to section 15H.6,
5 and the Iowa reading corps program established pursuant to
6 section 15H.7 shall be obtained from private sector, and local,
7 state, and federal government sources, or from other available
8 funds credited to the community programs account, which shall
9 be created within the economic development authority under
10 the authority of the commission. Moneys available in the
11 account for a fiscal year are appropriated to the commission
12 to be used for the programs. The commission may establish
13 an escrow account within the authority and obligate moneys
14 within that escrow account for tuition or program payments to
15 be made beyond the term of any fiscal year. Notwithstanding
16 section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest earned on moneys in the
17 community programs account shall be credited to the account.
18 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the community programs
19 account or escrow account shall not revert to the general fund
20 but shall remain available for expenditure in future fiscal
21 years.

22 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 15H.7 Iowa reading corps.

23 1. a. The Iowa commission on volunteer service, in
24 collaboration with the department of education, may establish
25 an Iowa reading corps program to provide Iowa reading corps
26 Americorps members with a data-based, problem-solving model
27 of literacy instruction to use in tutoring students from
28 prekindergarten to third grade who are not proficient in
29 reading or who are at risk of becoming not proficient in
30 reading.

31 b. The program shall use models of early literacy
32 instruction reviewed and approved by the department of
33 education pursuant to section 256.9, subsection 53, paragraph
34 "c".

35 c. The commission and the department of education shall

1 grant Americorps programs that are operating an early literacy
2 intervention program within a single school district on the
3 date of enactment of this Act that seek to be included in the
4 Iowa reading corps program adequate time to make adjustments
5 to align the currently operating program with commission and
6 department goals and strategies for the Iowa reading corps
7 program.

8 2. a. The models of literacy instruction utilized by Iowa
9 reading corps Americorps members shall align with literacy
10 program goals and strategies developed by the state department
11 of education, the local school district, and the Iowa reading
12 research center.

13 *b.* The commission, in collaboration with the department of
14 education, may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to implement
15 and administer this section.

16 3. The commission may use moneys in and lawfully available
17 to the community programs account created in section 15H.5 to
18 fund the program.

19 4. The commission shall submit an annual report to the
20 general assembly and the state department of education that
21 records and evaluates program data to determine the efficacy
22 of the program.

EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill concerns programs administered by the Iowa
27 commission on volunteer service (commission). The bill
28 allows the commission, in collaboration with the department
29 of education, to establish the Iowa reading corps. The Iowa
30 reading corps would provide Iowa reading corps Americorps
31 members with a data-based, problem-solving model of literacy
32 instruction to use in tutoring students, from prekindergarten
33 to third grade that are either not proficient in reading or at
34 risk of becoming not proficient in reading. The bill requires
35 the department of education and the commission to provide

1 current early literary intervention programs time to align
2 with the commission and the department's goals and strategies.
3 The bill requires all models of literacy instruction used by
4 Iowa reading corps Americorps members to align with literacy
5 program goals and strategies developed by the Iowa department
6 of education, the local school district, and the Iowa reading
7 research center. The bill allows the commission to use moneys
8 in and available to the community programs account established
9 in current Code section 15H.5 to fund the program. The bill
10 allows the commission to establish an escrow account within the
11 economic development authority and to obligate moneys within
12 that account for tuition or program payments made beyond the
13 term of a fiscal year.